Constitution of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India, to examine the impact of the alignment of the Pune–Nashik semi-high-speed Railway Line on the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), Khodad, District Pune.

Government of Maharashtra
Transport Department
Government Resolution No.: H.D.-51010/49/2026- O/O DS(TRANSPORT)-MHD-
Home Department (E: 1788711)
Second Floor, Mantralaya Main Buliding,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai 400 032
Date: 05 August, 2026

Read –

Official Note received from Hon. Chief Minister's Secretariat : Dated 05th August, 2026

Introduction –

The Pune–Nashik semi-high-speed railway line is a priority infrastructure project of the State Government. The original alignment proposed under the Detailed Project Report was found to pass in proximity to the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) facility at Khodad, near Narayangaon, District Pune, and concerns were raised by scientific institutions and by the Departments of Atomic Energy and Science & Technology, Government of India, regarding potential electromagnetic interference with the sensitive astronomical observations carried out at the said facility. A revised alignment via Ahilyanagar and Shirdi has since been finalised by the Ministry of Railways. Representations continue to be received seeking a closer examination of whether a more direct alignment, or suitable technical modifications such as tunnelling or elevated sections, can be adopted without compromising the integrity of the GMRT. The matter was under consideration of the Government, and it has now been decided to constitute a high-level Expert Committee in this behalf.

Resolution :-

The Government is pleased to constitute a high-level Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India, with the following composition and Terms of Reference :

SR NO	NAME AND DESIGNATION	CAPACITY
1	Shri Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India	Chairman
2	Shri Vivek Gupta, Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board	Member
3	Divisional Commissioner, Pune Division	Member
4	Divisional Commissioner, Nashik Division	Member

2. Terms of Reference :

1. To examine in detail the potential impact — electromagnetic, operational and otherwise — of the original proposed alignment as well as of the revised alignment of the Pune–Nashik railway line on the functioning of the GMRT.
2. To assess the technical feasibility of adopting the original alignment or a suitably modified near-original alignment, including options such as tunnelling, elevated structures or limited realignment, while ensuring complete protection of the radio-silence zone and observational capabilities of the GMRT.
3. To evaluate the comparative implications of the alternative alignments on travel time, project cost, land acquisition, industrial and agricultural connectivity, and the overall socio-economic benefits to the region.
4. To consult all relevant stakeholders, including the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), the Department of Atomic Energy, the Ministry of Railways / Central Railway, the Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (MRIDC), and the concerned district administrations.
5. To submit a comprehensive report with clear recommendations to the State Government within sixty (60) days of the constitution of the Committee.

3. Other Provisions :

1. The Committee may co-opt additional domain experts in radio astronomy, railway engineering, electromagnetics and environmental science, as deemed necessary.
2. The Divisional Commissioner, Pune shall provide all necessary secretarial, logistical and financial support to the Committee.
3. The Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (MRIDC) shall place before the Committee the Detailed Project Report, alignment drawings, survey data and cost estimates of both alignments, and shall depute a technical officer to assist the Committee.

4. All Departments of the State Government, District Administrations and agencies concerned shall extend full co-operation to the Committee and shall furnish such information as may be called for.
5. The Committee shall submit its comprehensive report, with clear recommendations, to the State Government within sixty (60) days from the date of issue of this Government Resolution.

This Government resolution of Maharashtra Government is available at the website www.maharashtra.gov.in. Reference no. for this is 202608051826012539. This Resolution has been signed digitally.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

CHETAN
BALASAHEB NIKAM

Digitally signed by CHETAN BALASAHEB NIKAM
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Date: 2026.08.05 18:28:11 +05'30'

(Chetan Nikam)
Deputy Secretary (Transport), Home Department

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. The Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister (Transport), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
3. The Private Secretary to the Hon’ble State Minister (Transport), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
4. Shri Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India — Chairman of the Committee.
5. The Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi.
6. The Divisional Commissioner, Pune / Nashik Division.
7. The Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, Mumbai.
8. The Director, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA-TIFR), Pune.
9. The Managing Director, Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Mumbai.
10. The Collector, Pune / Ahilyanagar/ Nashik.
11. Select File, Desk Tranport-5, Home (Transport) Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.